

**In the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

1. (currently amended) An adjustable coupler lock, comprising:
  - a) a lock body defining a passage therethrough, said lock body comprising
    - i) a locking mechanism, and
    - ii) a locking plate;
  - b) a shaft having a narrow end, a flange end, and at least two recesses along the length of the shaft;

wherein the shaft is movable relative the lock body ~~inserted~~ in a first insertion direction or an opposing second insertion direction through said passage ~~into one of two openings in the lock body~~ with the coupler lock in a locked position ~~and moved through the lock body~~,  
and engagement of the locking plate with one of the shaft recesses does not allow movement of the shaft through the lock body in a direction opposing the insertion direction unless the locking mechanism is unlocked.
2. (previously presented) The coupler lock of claim 1, wherein said shaft and said lock body are made of stainless steel.
3. (original) The coupler lock of claim 1, wherein the shaft recesses have a vertical edge nearer the narrow end of the shaft, and a tapered edge nearer the flange end of the shaft.
4. (original) The coupler lock of claim 1, wherein the shaft is moved through the lock body in the first direction without unlocking the locking mechanism.
5. (currently amended) An adjustable coupler lock assembly comprising:  
a coupler;  
a lock body;  
a locking mechanism disposed within said lock body; and

a shaft ~~an adjustable means~~ for securing the lock body to said coupler ~~an object~~,  
wherein said shaft is movable ~~adjustable means allows the lock body to move~~ in one of  
two insertion directions relative to said lock body ~~an object~~ but not in an opposing withdrawal  
direction when the coupler lock is in a locked position.

6. (currently amended) The adjustable coupler lock assembly of claim 5, wherein  
said ~~adjustable means for securing the lock body to an object~~ comprises a shaft comprises with  
two or more recesses.

7. (currently amended) The adjustable coupler lock assembly of claim 6, wherein  
the shaft recesses have a vertical edge and a tapered edge.

8. (currently amended) The adjustable coupler lock assembly of claim 5, further  
comprising a cam engagable by said locking mechanism and engagable by a locking plate.

9. (currently amended) The adjustable coupler lock assembly of claim 8, wherein  
said cam includes a groove which engages said locking mechanism and a projection which  
engages said locking plate.

10. (currently amended) The adjustable coupler lock assembly of claim 9, wherein  
said locking plate includes a notch which is engaged by said projection on said cam.

11. (currently amended) The adjustable coupler lock assembly of claim 6, further  
comprising a locking plate, wherein said locking plate includes an opening through which said  
shaft is inserted.

12. (currently amended) The adjustable coupler lock assembly of claim 11, wherein  
said opening in said locking plate includes a peripheral edge which engages one of said two or  
more recesses when said coupler lock is in a locked position.

13. (withdrawn) A method of locking a coupler latch comprising the steps of:  
placing a coupler in contact with a hitch ball;  
closing a coupler latch into a locked position;  
inserting a shaft, which includes two or more recesses thereon, in one of two opposing insertion directions through an opening in said latch;  
sliding a lock body over said shaft, wherein said lock body includes a locking mechanism and a locking plate;  
inserting said shaft in one of two opposing insertion directions into said lock body;  
spring biasing said locking plate in a direction such that the locking plate engages said shaft when said lock body is slid over said shaft; and  
sliding said lock body towards said latch;  
wherein said locking plate engages said recesses in said shaft and allows continued advancement of said lock body toward said latch without unlocking said locking mechanism, but does not allow for the lock body to move in a direction opposite of the insertion direction.

14. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said shaft is inserted through an opening in said locking plate and said locking plate includes a peripheral edge that engages one of said two of more recesses.

15. (currently amended) The adjustable coupler lock assembly of claim 6, further comprising a seal located around a portion of the lock body that seals against the shaft.

16. (currently amended) The adjustable coupler lock assembly of claim 6, further comprising a protective coating that is applied on a portion of said shaft.

17. (currently amended) An adjustable coupler lock comprising:  
a lock body defining a passage therethrough and a locking mechanism;  
a shaft with two or more recesses; and  
a locking plate which engages one of said two or more recesses when said coupler lock is in a locked position;

wherein said shaft can be inserted through said passage ~~lock body~~ and said locking plate in two opposing directions relative to said lock body.

18. (currently amended) An adjustable length lock assembly for securing a coupler to a hitch ball, ~~the coupler having a coupler latch rotatable from an open position to a closed position;~~ said lock assembly comprising:

a coupler having a coupler latch rotatable from an open position to a closed position;

a hitch ball;

a lock body defining an opening therethrough and comprising a locking mechanism and a locking plate; and

a shaft having a narrow end, a flange end, and at least two recesses disposed between said narrow end and said flange end;

wherein said shaft is insertable sequentially through said coupler latch and through said lock body opening from either of two opposing insertion directions with respect to said lock body, with said coupler latch in a closed position and said coupler in contact with said hitch ball,

wherein ~~such that~~ engagement of the locking plate with one of the shaft recesses does not allow movement of the shaft through said lock body in an opposing withdrawal direction relative to the insertion direction unless the locking mechanism is unlocked.

19. (currently amended) The adjustable length lock assembly of claim 18, wherein said shaft and said lock body are made of stainless steel.

20. (currently amended) The adjustable length lock assembly of claim 18, wherein said at least two recesses have a vertical edge nearer the narrow end of the shaft and a tapered edge nearer the flange end of the shaft.

21. (currently amended) The adjustable length lock assembly of claim 18, wherein said shaft is movable through the lock body in the insertion direction without unlocking the locking mechanism.